

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS

# BCR&P

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2005

## A Rich History &



## An Exciting Future

### Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Baltimore by providing diverse recreational, environmental, cultural, educational and leisure opportunities to benefit current and future generations.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Baltimore is one of the top ten destinations of choice in the world because the citizens of Baltimore are taking ownership of their neighborhoods, executing change and stimulating growth. Businesses are coming, staying and contributing to the community like never before.

This administration gave a charge to elected officials, agencies, organizations and citizens alike to BELIEVE in Baltimore. These frontline stakeholders are responding, and it illuminates in city agencies like the Department of Recreation and Parks, which has been attracting much needed community support. With programs like BELIEVE in a Greener Baltimore and BELIEVE in a Fun and Fit Baltimore, Recreation and Parks is rallying organizations from corporate America to neighborhood grassroots efforts that invest in the community's development.



I enjoyed taking part in the grand occasion that honored Delegate Howard P. Rawlings and the accomplishments that were made as a result of his advocacy. I also had the pleasure of joining the Edgewood/Lyndhurst community in celebrating the opening of Baltimore's first "newly constructed" recreation center in over 20 years. The completion of the Gwynns Falls Trail was another major achievement for FY 2005 and the perfect example of what Recreation and Parks is all about: bringing communities together.

Sometimes city agencies are forced to do more with fewer resources. I extend congratulations to this agency because BCRP continues to make substantial gains despite having only half the resources and a considerably smaller workforce than previous years. Keep up the tremendous effort and the community will follow.

A special thanks to all the donors, partners and sponsors that have contributed to the success of the Department of Recreation and Parks. I am confident that as long as we continue to BELIEVE in Baltimore, together, we can make it more Green, Fun and Fit.

Martin O'Malley  
Mayor

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am honored to assume leadership of an agency that is continuously improving and holding itself accountable to Baltimore City taxpayers. As the former Associate Director of Parks, I developed a special and keen appreciation for the frontline workers. As the Acting Director of Recreation and Parks, I will continue that respect for the frontline workers as well as the stakeholders.

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is the leader in nurturing communities who BELIEVE in an active, healthy and greener Baltimore. As the many vibrant neighborhoods continue to take ownership of their open spaces and actively participate in promoting a physically and socially fit lifestyle, our agency quickly, passionately and efficiently responds by donating the necessary resources and support.

FY 2005 was a year of accomplishments and stage setting. Under the watchful eye of the Mayor and the CitiStat program, the Department has become more responsive, accountable and cost effective. We have taken the necessary steps to make our parks beautiful, safe and clean. Under the leadership of Roslyn Johnson, we have improved the quality of recreational activities for children and families. Our Department has also demonstrated a dedication to fiscal responsibility, which has enabled us to secure jobs, beautify parks and build community infrastructures. FY 2006 will be a year of increased community support and outreach.

Our newly established Office of Partnerships, under the direction of Kay Sibetta, will forge many new private and public business relationships, all in an effort to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Baltimore. Our Communications Department, under the direction of Leslie Summiel, will increase community participation as well as the visibility of all of our exciting programs and activities.

We also have a dedicated and professional team of employees who are committed to the communities they serve as well as a group of volunteers who are devoted to keeping our recreational facilities and parks strong and functional. We look forward to meeting the challenges of the years ahead and to making Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks the best in the nation.

Connie A. Brown  
Acting Director

# ARCH:ISTORY...

It was around the 1900s when people began to realize the need for structured park use. More space was needed for children to play, parents to enjoy lazy days and teams to hold sporting events in the park.

During the late 1930s and the early 1940s, there was a total reorganization of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. As a result, Mayor Howard W. Jackson appointed a Municipal Recreation Commission. Headed by Robert Garrett, the commission's goal was to assess the planning and the organization of the Park program and to propose a more detailed, controlled and viable plan for the future use of open space.

In 1947, the first recreation center was built and named after Chick Webb, a famous Jazz Drummer. In 1948, the Bureau of Parks, Recreation and Music came together to form one collective unit. Now, the Department manages over 400 park properties, 253 school and park playgrounds, 170 ball fields, 105 tennis courts, 101 basketball courts and many special facility buildings.



# AN EXCITING FUTURE...



In 2000, Mayor O'Malley developed the Mayor's Playground Task Force to improve the conditions of the city's parks, school lots and playgrounds. BCRP responded by replacing or removing old playground equipment throughout the city. In FY 2006, we will mark the milestone of the 100th "newly renovated" playground.

We also look forward to working with the Department of Transportation in order to construct an "extension" to the Gwynns Falls Trail. This extension will link his-

toric communities throughout the Baltimore area to the I-70 Park-N-Ride located in Woodlawn. The Jones Falls Trail, another construction project, is now in its final stages.

Renovations to Latrobe Park began in March 2005 and will be completed in early 2006. Each year in September, the Locust Point Civic Association holds a community festival in Latrobe Park. This will be a grand celebration for the Locust Point community with Latrobe Park's new look.

We will also establish mutually beneficial partnerships throughout the city that will upgrade open spaces and playing fields like Dewees Park in Northeast Baltimore. It is projects like these that give Baltimoreans and visitors alike a reason to "BELIEVE in a Greener, Fun and Fit Baltimore."





# Bureau of Recreation

Roslyn Johnson,  
*Associate Director*



## LEISURE SERVICES

The Division of Leisure Services, under the direction of Tawanna Kane, innovates programming and oversees the operation of 46 recreation centers. Our programming has increased to include Yoga, Capoeira, Financial Literacy and the first annual Junior Beautillion of 2005.

Project Reach, a strategy to provide additional resources and opportunities to some of the more challenging areas of Baltimore, has been a huge success. Since its inception, this program has increased to offer three conflict resolution classes and training to over 60 young people in skills that will equip them to handle confrontation more effectively.

On Feb. 1, 2005, Be-More Sound Studio opened its doors at the James McHenry Recreation Center. This new program will provide our talented Baltimore youths with an opportunity to record personal CDs in a professional setting.

After many years of advocacy and commitment, the Edgewood/Lyndhurst Community celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for Edgewood Recreation Center, Baltimore's first "newly constructed" recreation center in over 20 years.



## YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS

Baltimore's youth and adults can participate in tennis, track & field, swimming and many more "year-round" activities. Youth and Adult Sports, headed by Portia Harris, offers sports and academic programs for all ages at various sites throughout Baltimore City. Baltimoreans are invited to be a part of Baltimore's Neighborhood Basketball League, join the Upton Boxing facility or participate in the annual Spelling Bee Contest.

This year, Baltimore City Track & Field Club captured 43 medals in the AAU Region II Championships at Darling Stadium in Hampton, VA. Sherron Bogues organized 45 teams for the annual Easter Showcase Basketball Tournament that was held at Lake Clifton High School.

More people are taking advantage of other "Creative Baltimore" activities such as the Trapeze School located on Rash Field in the Inner Harbor and Baltimore's own Disc Golf Course in Historic Druid Hill Park.





## THERAPEUTIC DIVISION

Under the coordination of Mike Naugle, the Therapeutic Division provides year-round adaptive sport opportunities for individuals with physical as well as developmental disabilities.

“For every player who has a dream,” there’s a host of programs and activities offered in Therapeutic Recreation such as the League of Dreams, the One Up One Down Tournaments, Camp Variety and the Saturday Night Social Club.



## SENIOR CITIZEN DIVISION

The “50 Plus” demographic is one of the fastest growing groups in America.

BCRP recognizes and appreciates our seniors by providing quality programs and activities to keep them young and fit.

Senior Day at Camden Yards, the Wisdom Walk Across Maryland Program, Las Vegas Night and the Annual Senior’s Crab Feast at Martin’s West are just a few of the wonderful activities available to seniors.

This Division is housed at the John Booth Senior Center and provides support and assistance to over 90 Golden Age Clubs, senior groups and organizations.



# Bureau of Parks

Tom Jeannetta,  
*Acting Chief of Parks*



## Forestry Division

One of the most proactive Divisions of Parks is the Forestry Division. A small group of dedicated men and women from this division maintains over 500,000 street and park trees and surrounding green space on a yearly basis.

Everyday, regardless of the weather, our crews are out planting, pruning, removing and maintaining city trees. These services help to improve the urban environment and enhance city living. BCRP received ten awards this year on behalf of the Forestry Division, one of them was the prestigious Tree City USA Award.

## Horticulture Division

The Horticulture Division is responsible for the magnificent array of flowers and plants located in the parks, gateways and medians. In addition, Bill Vondrasek and his crew placed a stunning flower and plant arrangement in the median adjacent to the Baltimore City Police Headquarters. This year, the Horticulture Division completed the Cylburn Master Plan, which laid the ground work for facility upgrades at the Cylburn Arboretum.

## Cylburn Mansion & Arboretum

The Cylburn Mansion, located on the grounds of the Cylburn Arboretum, is now open after one year and \$700,000 in upgrades and renovations. Today, this historical treasure is fully accessible and

dressed with a new coat of paint, an air-conditioned first floor, a new kitchen, restrooms and restored ornamental plaster work. These renovations were completed just in time for our Holiday Workshops and Poinsettia Sale. Our annual Perennial and Herb Day, the Cylburn Market Day, An Afternoon in the Garden and the Tulip Dig were very successful. We look forward to the Annual Festfall celebration in October.

## The Carrie Murray Nature Center

Open seven days a week and located on 1216 acres of woods, the nature center offers wonderful environmental programs. This year, Carrie Murray celebrated the grand reopening of the Insect Zoo and hosted the first Annual Wild Wings Fairies and Things Festival. They also provided children, adults and seniors with year-round programming such as the Carrie Murray Nature Camp, the Mother Earth Festival, the Haunted Hike and the Wildlife Photo Workshop.

## The Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory & Botanic Gardens of Baltimore

The Conservatory has had a very exciting year. After two years of construction and renovations, a grand opening ceremony was held to celebrate the "newly constructed" North and South Pavillions. The pavillions were designed to complement the original architecture of the Palm House.

Renovations and hardscaping in the three display greenhouses feature Arizona flagstone, rock boulders from the painted desert of Utah, a tropical pool, a misting system, Italian tiles and fountains. These upgrades make the Conservatory a wonderful venue for weddings, parties, meetings and other special events.

The majority of the project was made possible by State and City issued bonds. Additional funds derived from the State of Maryland Open Space Program. Delegate Howard P. Rawlings also played a very important role in securing the funds for this project. Thus, to honor him and his dedication to the Conservatory and the City of Baltimore, the Baltimore City Council under the leadership of President Sheila Dixon unanimously passed Council Bill #04-1524, which renamed the Baltimore Conservatory to the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore.





## Park Conservation & Community Outreach

There is an invasion in Baltimore City. Non-native invasive plants species are disrupting the urban ecosystem and displacing native species. The Urban Weed Warriors program trains and educates volunteers about the problems associated with invasive plant species, how to identify them and the best techniques for removal.

Baltimore City's volunteer park service program, BELIEVE in a Greener Baltimore, organizes events that encourage environmental awareness within local communities. Working with community and corporate groups, we promote activities that are designed to educate and motivate participants. This year, we welcomed Starbucks as the newest member of our corporate team. Their sponsorship helped transform Dypski Park from gray to GREEN!



## 4th Annual Baltimore City Golf Tournament

Every year, Baltimore golfers come to celebrate the beginning of summer at the Pine Ridge Golf Course on Loch Raven Reservoir. For the last four years, this tournament has been a successful fundraiser for the volunteer park service program. The tournament serves as our primary source of funding to purchase tools and materials for our volunteer park service corps.

### Office of Partnerships

The Office of Partnerships promotes public and private partnerships that increase the quality of our city parks for public use. These partnership initiatives help to create, restore and improve our parks, greenways and trails. As a result, the city makes significant improvements to park grounds, develop public programs and encourage groups to become active stewards.

The Office of Partnerships had a *62 percent increase of 20 new partners in FY 2005* - bringing the total number to 32. The partnership agreements vary from beautification to fairly complex renovation projects such as building a new children's playground or bocce court. Our partners have performed *over 30,000 volunteer hours* collectively working on various park related projects at an established *value of over \$880,000*, hence saving the department *nearly \$400,000*. With increasingly more partnership opportunities in the future, the department looks forward to finding other suitable partners to help

improve the existing conditions in our parks and recreation centers in FY 2006.

## Capital Development Division

Edgewood Recreation Center, the Gwynns Falls Trail, the Jones Falls Trail, Patterson Park pool and playground, Clifton Park pool, playgrounds and the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore were just a few of Gennady Schwartz and his staff's accomplishments.

There are more renovation projects to look forward to such as Latrobe Park, Upton Recreation Center, Madison Square Recreation Center, the War Memorial Plaza project and the reconstruction of the piers at Ft. Armistead and Smallwood.





# In recognition of BCRP Stakeholders

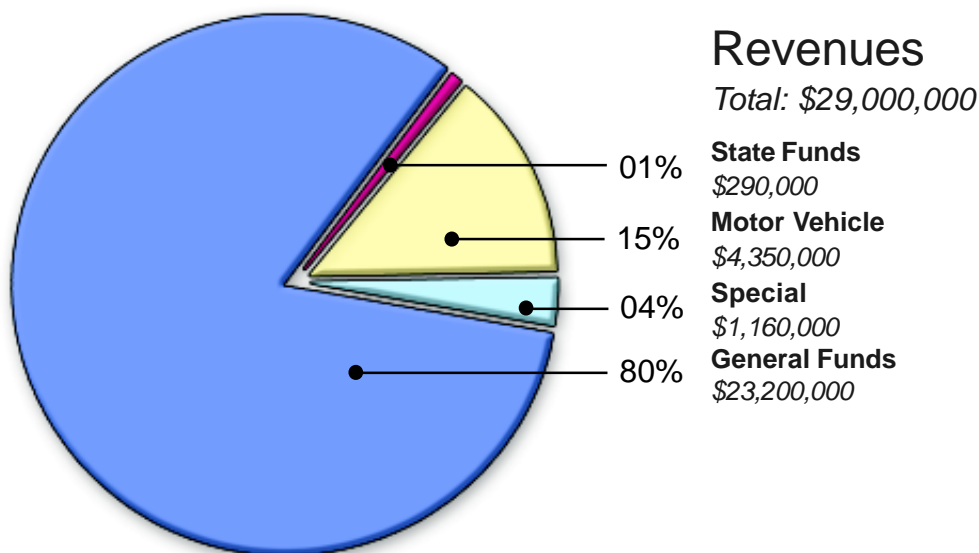
Abell Improvement Association  
Advance Digital Systems  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Asplundh  
Associated Black Charities  
Audubon Society  
Baltimore Beach Volleyball  
Baltimore Blast  
Baltimore Burn  
Baltimore Chesapeake Rugby & Football Club  
Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development  
Baltimore City Law Department  
Baltimore City Department of Social Services  
Baltimore City Police Department  
Baltimore City Public Schools  
Baltimore Clay Works, Inc.  
Baltimore Community Development Financing Corporation  
Baltimore Development Corporation  
Baltimore Herb Festival  
Baltimore Museum of Art  
Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts  
Baltimore Orioles  
Baltimore Ravens  
Baltimore Sports & Social Club  
Bible Day World Outreach  
Black Data Processing  
Bolton Park Neighbors, Inc.  
Boy Scouts of Central Maryland  
Bromwell Press, Inc.  
Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Coalition  
Calvert Hall College  
Canton Community Association  
Canton Rotary Club  
Charles Village Recreation League  
Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Civic Works, Inc.

Comcast Cable  
Cylburn Arboretum Association  
Department of Natural Resources  
DHP Players, Inc.  
Donna Stupski  
Downtown Locker Room  
Druid Hill Players, Inc.  
EA Engineering, Science and Technology  
East Baltimore Family & Youth Services  
Eastside Raiders  
Elizabeth Littleton  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Family League of Baltimore  
Fedeli Construction Company  
Friends of Carroll Mansion  
Friends of Carroll Park  
Friends of Clifton Mansion  
Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park  
Friends of Latrobe Park  
Friends of Luckman Park  
Friends of Mount Vernon Park  
Friends of O'Donnell Square  
Friends of Olmstead Park  
Friends of Patterson Park  
Friends of Riverside Park  
Friends of Union Square  
Friends of Wyman Park  
Graphic Detail  
Greater Baltimore Committee  
Gwynns Falls Football & Cheerleading Academy  
Gwynns Falls Trail Council  
Gwynns Falls Watershed Association  
J.A. Raiders Soccer & Social Club  
John Steven Ltd.  
Kennedy Krieger Institute



## ders and Contributors

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Kickball League of Baltimore, Inc.

Leon Day Foundation

Levtran Enterprises

Little League Baseball Leagues

Living Classrooms

Locust Point Civic Association

Lorenz Inc.

Maryland Department of Transportation

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Lacrosse Club II

Mayor's Office of Children, Youth & Families

Mayor's Office of Employment Development

Masjid Ul-Haqq

MECU Credit Union

Michael Rice

Mount Vernon & Belvedere Association

National Football League

National Recreation and Parks

Northeast Youth Association

Park & People Foundation

Park Heights Community Golf Range, Inc.

Peter Fillat Architects

Pinnacle Financial

Program Open Space

Radio One

Remington Neighborhood Alliance

RFC Inc.

Seton Hill Association

Shemin Nurseries, Inc.

SOBO Sports

South Baltimore Improvement Committee, Inc.

Southway Builders

Spectrum USA

St. Ignatius Loyola Academy

Starbucks

Struever Brothers, Eccles & Rouse, Inc.

Telecommunications Inc.

The Greater Baltimore Urban League

The Safe & Sound Campaign

Timberland

Tour du Parks

Tree City USA/National Arbor Day Foundation

Trust for Public Land  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Urban Leadership Institute  
Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani, LLC  
Woodberry Land Trust  
YMCA of Central Maryland

# BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF RECREATION & PARKS

2004-2005

## PRESIDENT

Tracy K. Gosson  
*Executive Director, Live Baltimore Home Center*

## COMMISSIONERS

Dean Harrison  
*President, Harrison Development*

Frederick M. Hopkins  
*Principal, Legg Mason Trust Company*

Martin G. Knott, Jr.  
*President, Knott Mechanical, Inc.*

Wendell Peters Rawlings  
*Associate Director, One World Cultural Arts Society*

Samuel Rodriguez, Jr.  
*Program Analyst, Federal Communications Commission*

Carolyn D. Wainwright  
*Administrative Supervisor, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission*

*Special thanks to Donna Stupski, Jay Baker, Mike Naugle and other unnamed photographers for their contributions to this Annual Report.*



Baltimore City Department of  
Recreation & Parks  
3001 East Drive (Druid Hill Park)  
Baltimore, MD 21217

